

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01399 091703Z

54

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

/081 W

----- 077299

R 091405Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3111

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, US, GY, ICFTU

SUBJECT: GUYANESE LABOR LEADER SEES THREAT TO ICFTU

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: A TOP GUYANATRADE UNION LEADER, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE ILO GENEVA CONFERENCE, HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE FORMATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION. THE NEW GROUPING, HE FEELS, COULD ARISE OUT OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN-INITIATED WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT (WTUC) WHOSE ORIGINAL SUPPORTERS WERE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND WHOSE PRESENT SUPPORTERS MET AGAIN AT THE RECENT ILO CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OTHER GUYANESE LABOR LEADERS CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION TO BE ONLY AN INCHOATE IDEA AT PRESENT, THE TUC HEAD FEARS THAT WITHOUT U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) PARTICIPATION, THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE ABLE EVENTUALLY TO DOMINATE THE NEW GROUP WHICH COULD DRAW MEMBERS FROM, AND SO WEAKEN, THE ICFTU. END SUMMARY.

2. RICHARD ISHMAEL, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE GUYANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC) WHO SERVED AS GUYANA'S LABOR DELEGATE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 01399 091703Z

THIS YEAR'S ILO CONFERENCE AND WHO HAS JUST BEEN ELECTED AS A

WORKERS MEMBER OF THE ILO INTER-AMERICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SPOKE TO AN EMBOFF RECENTLY ABOUT THE YUGOSLAVIAN-INITIATED WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT (WTUC). ISHMAEL CLAIMS THAT THE YUGOSLAVIANS HAD HOPED, T THE 1973 NON-ALIGNED HEADS OF STATES CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS, AND AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS IN BELGRADE IN DECEMBER 1975 ANDPARIS IN MAY 1976, TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION. THIS NEW ORGANIZATION WAS SUPPOSEDLY TO HAVE OFFERED A NON-ALIGNED ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT LABOR ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ICFTU AND THE WFTU.

3. ACCORDING TO ISHMAEL, THE WTUC WAS GAINING SUPPORT RAPIDLY UNTIL THE SOVIETS FORCED AND ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO THE CONFERENCE, CAUSING SEVERAL OF THE WTUC'S MAJOR SUPPORTERS (ESPECIALLY YUGOSLAVIA) TO RECONSIDER AN INVITE U.S. (AFL-CIO) AND ICFTU PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE. WTUCWORKING GROUP IN MAY OF THIS YEAR ISSUED INVITATIONS TO VARIOUS LABOR ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET AT THE ILO'S JUNE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA TO SET UP A WTUC STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD ORGANIZE FUTURE GATHERINGS. THIS MEETING WAS SUPPOSEDLY OPEN TO "ALL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION DESIROUS OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS INITIATIVE". THE INVITATIONCLAIMED THAT MORE THAN 100 NATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE WTUC.

4. ISHMAEL SAID THAT THE WTUC WORKING GROUP WAS STILL WAITING FOR A RESPONSE FROM THE AFL-CIO AND ICFTU TO AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE. HE ADDED THAT BEFORE A NEW CONFERENCE DATE WOULD BE SET, A SECOND INVITATION TO THE TWO GROUPS WAS GOING TO BE SENT. HE SAID THAT IF THE ICFTU AND AFL-CIO DO NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE WTUC,THE GROUP'S ORGANIZERS - WHO NOW WANT U.S, SUPPORT FOR BALANCE - WOULD CLAIM THAT THE TWO WERE NOT INTERESTED AN A TRULY INDEPENDENTINTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

5. COMMENT: ISHMAEL'S REMARKS SEEM SOMEWHAT ALARMIST. HE FEELS THAT THE WTUC WILL GROW INTO A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUPERSEDING OTHER GROUPS SUCH AS THE ICFTU AND THE WFTU AND THAT THE U.S. WILL BE LEFT IN AN ISOLATED POSITION WHILE THE SOVIET UNION EVENTUALLY TAKES OVER THE NEW ORGANIZATION. SEVERAL OTHER TUC LEADERS, INCLUDING GENERAL SECRETARY JOSEPH POLLYDORE, FEEL THAT A NEW NTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, WHILE PERHAPS A GOOD IDEA, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 01399 091703Z

IS FAR FROM BEING REALIZED. WE HAVE HEARD LITTLE ELSE ON THIS SUBJECT AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER ENLIGHTENMENT ON IT FROM THE DEPARTMENT
MATTHEWS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE01399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760266-0337
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760776/aaaacnyo.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANESE LABOR LEADER SEES THREAT TO ICFTU
TAGS: ELAB, US, GY, ICFTU, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006